

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

### **March 24, 2005**

#### **Preliminary Draft Solid Waste Master Plan Revisions**

Attendees reviewed and discussed DEP's preliminary draft revisions to the *Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP)*, which were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Participants made the following comments:

#### **Toxicity Reduction**

- DEP should expand planning to include bio-hazardous waste, either in the SWMP, the state's Disaster Debris Management Plan, or another appropriate forum.
- DEP should build partnerships with the Massachusetts Realtors Association, companies that perform house clean-outs, or other organizations involved with real estate and moving, to focus on collecting and safely disposing hazardous products when people move.
- Municipalities could save money by educating their residents to not include in collection programs surplus latex paint and other similar products that do not need to be managed as hazardous waste.
- It may make sense to extend Municipal Waste Combustor Material Separation Plans beyond mercury-containing products to other hazardous household products.
- DEP should consider promoting hazardous product collection at existing solid waste facilities and other ways to bundle services to keep costs at a minimum.

#### **Commercial Waste Reduction**

##### **Organics Processing Capacity**

- DEP and/or project proponents should consider wastewater treatment plants as potential sites for organics processing facilities. They would be good candidates because many have a large footprint and would benefit from removing food waste from the wastewater treatment system.
- DEP should establish statewide beneficial use determinations (BUDs) for specific types of compost to establish clear standards and make the compost more easily marketable.
- DEP should also work with state agencies to make a purchasing commitment for compost products. In addition to supporting composting facilities, this would reduce the need to purchase and use fertilizer on state facility grounds.
- DEP should work with developers of organics processing capacity to conduct financial analyses for different types of organics processing facilities. This would help to gain a better understanding of what combination of tip fees and product revenue a facility would need to be profitable given estimated capital and operating costs.
- In order to encourage new investments in organics processing capacity, it is important to establish and ensure a stable long-term supply of organic wastes. DEP should consider what policies, such as a waste ban, would drive that consistent supply.
- DEP should explore development of more on-site composting projects at institutional facilities such as hospitals, universities, or prisons that generate large amounts of food waste.

## **Waste Bans**

- DEP should consider lowering waste ban de minimis thresholds for failed loads for some materials to increase recycling.
- Several participants expressed interest in waste ban enforcement against haulers and generators, but emphasized that it is important that this enforcement reach waste generators and not just haulers.
- Several participants expressed interest in participating in a SWAC subcommittee to discuss a range of waste ban enforcement and implementation issues.

## Residential Waste Reduction

- DEP should continue to emphasize support for municipal Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) programs and increase outreach about PAYT to municipal officials, especially those with decision-making authority.
- DEP should encourage municipalities to consider revenue-neutral PAYT programs that lower taxes when implementing PAYT.
- DEP should maximize recycling education and outreach to residents, including emphasizing opportunities to save money through recycling. This basic theme should be emphasized in existing programs such as the School Green Team program.
- DEP should work with municipalities to switch to larger recycling containers such as wheeled carts that have been shown to increase recycling by residents.

## Waste Reduction Capacity and No Net Import Export

- Participants commented extensively on the importance of developing organics processing capacity; these comments are included above under the headings of *Commercial Waste Reduction Strategy*, *Organics Processing Capacity*.
- DEP should consider rewriting the no net import/export goal in the broader terms of establishing a sustainable, integrated solid waste management system.

## Combustion Facility Moratorium

- DEP should lift the combustion facility moratorium and instead address concerns about mercury emissions from combustion facilities by tightening requirements for emission controls. Or, DEP could allow facilities to propose other options such as reducing mercury emissions at another facility.
- Maintaining the moratorium eliminates the potential and the possibility for the private sector to develop improved combustion or other similar innovative waste management technologies.
- Maintaining the moratorium seems inconsistent with how DEP is regulating other facilities such as landfills, which emit mercury and high levels of greenhouse gases, or biomass facilities that burn wood, which may also have emissions of concern.
- Combustion facilities achieve other benefits, such as separation of metals for recycling, that landfills do not.
- Mercury emissions from combustion facilities were lower in 2003 than in 2002 and DEP should use this updated data in developing its Master Plan revision.
- DEP should keep in mind that some regions of the state, such as the Merrimack Valley, already have more combustion facilities and mercury emissions than other areas, and that people in these areas would not want additional waste combustion in their area, even if emissions were reduced in other areas.

### **Meeting Handouts and Presentations**

- Meeting Agenda
- *Summary of DRAFT Solid Waste Master Plan Revisions, March 24, 2005*
- *Solid Waste Master Plan: DRAFT Proposed Revisions, March 24, 2005*

### **Comments on Draft Revisions**

Comments on the preliminary draft revisions to the SWMP should be sent to John Fischer by April 4, 2005.

### **Next SWAC Meeting**

The next SWAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 26, 2005, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at DEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA.